

A<sup>3</sup>  
(a)-(d) and 35 U.S.C. 365 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/02240, filed 14 March 2000, which was published in German as International Patent Publication No. WO 00/58072 on 5 October 2000, which is entitled to the right of priority of German Patent Application No. 199 14 143.6, filed 27 March 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following at line 9 on page 1 of the specification.

A<sup>4</sup> --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

A<sup>5</sup> Please insert the following at line 35 on page 1 of the specification.

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

A<sup>6</sup> Please insert the following between lines 7 and 9 on page 2 of the specification.

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

A<sup>6</sup> Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a longitudinal section of a double-shaft extruder of an apparatus according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace line 1 of page 5 of the specification with the following.

A<sup>7</sup> --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 1-22 without prejudice.

Please add the following Claims 23-46.

A<sup>8</sup> --23. An apparatus for degassing plastic materials comprising a double-shaft extruder, said double shaft extruder comprising:

- (i) two shafts rotating in the same direction and meshing with one another;